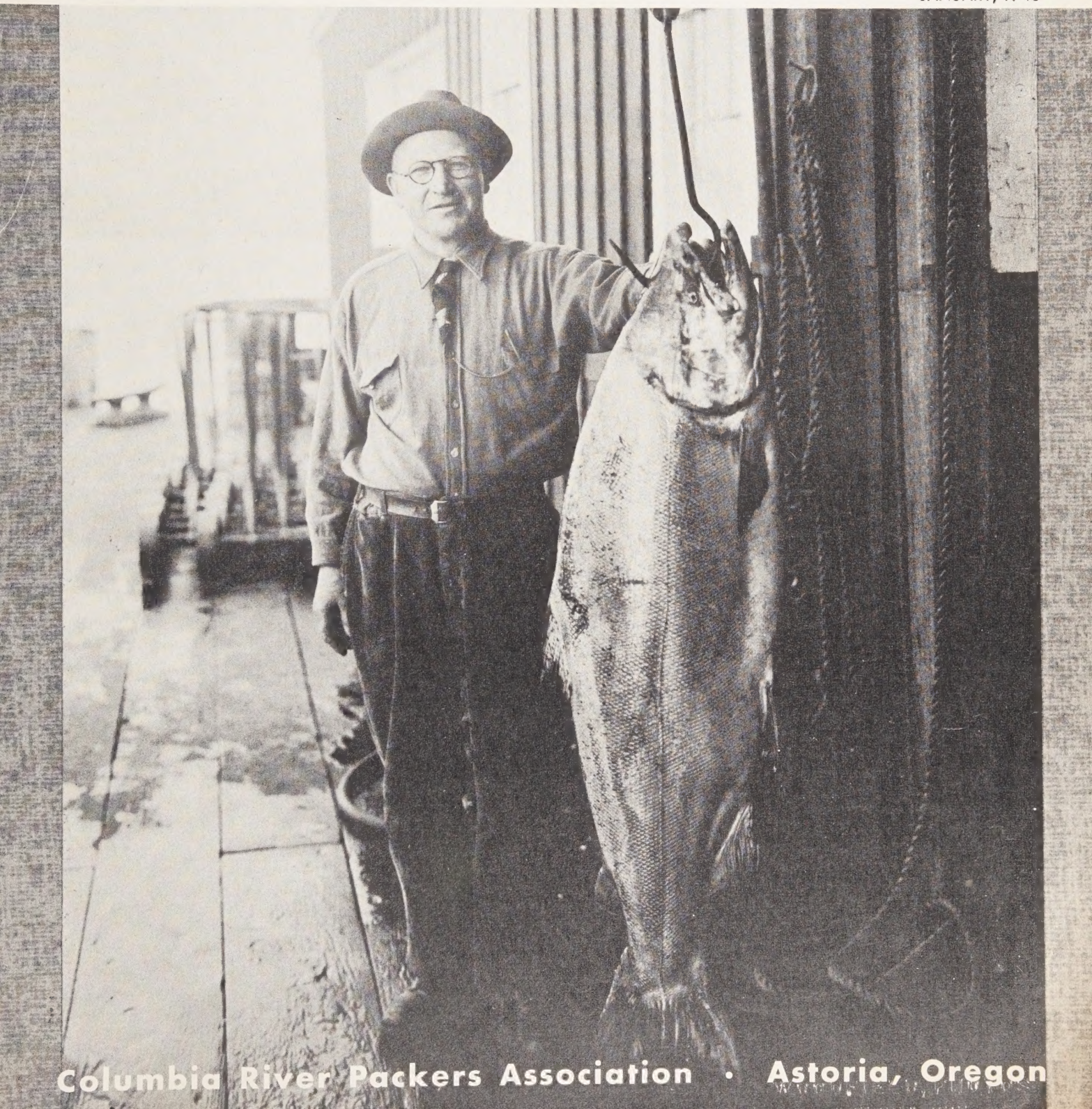
THE BUMBLE BEE

Vol. 1, No. 3

JANUARY, 1945



Columbia River Packers Association · Astoria, Oregon

EDITORIAL

Thomas F. Sandoz, Executive Vice-President. CRPA's dynamo who projects his energy throughout all phases of company operations. As co-ordinator of the complex activities of the company which range geographically from Alaska to California he drives with unremitting vigor for improvement, development and expansion, and still finds the time to perform important services for the industry as a whole, as a member of committees of national and inter-state scope.

Save the Salmon

Faced by the fact that funds for salmon propagation are at a very low ebb at the very time when additional effort to maintain the Columbia River salmon runs should be made to counteract the losses sustained as a result of power and reclamation dam obstructions in the river, the State of Oregon should take action to revise the current system of financing this necessary program.

Propagation activities are under the control of the Oregon Fish Commission, which, during the past decade, has attempted to carry on hatchery operations of considerable extent in the presence of steadily diminishing revenues. With license fees and poundage taxes as the only sources of income, the Commission is now at a point where it not only cannot look forward to any development or research, but can foresee the necessity of further reductions in its already meager propagation activities. Revenues have dropped as the fish runs have diminished, and with almost one-third of gross receipts going to the State Police and State Tithing Fund there has been little left to the Commission to finance its operation.

The commercial fishing industry of Oregon has been one of the chief industries of the state for over 80 years. It pays huge real and personal property taxes; thousands of persons who are engaged in the industry pay large sums in state income taxes; yet the industry is called upon to finance its state activities by a further tax payment in the form of license and poundage fees. Such financing no longer seems feasible and we feel that the State Legislature should, in view of the circumstances, relieve the industry of a portion of this burden, and place our propagation and conservation operations on a sound financial footing, which would guarantee the Fish Commission a stable income, so that it can develop and carry out a long range program to offset the destruction caused by factors over which no element in the industry has had control.

When the general resource picture is considered, and the facts are revealed that today over two-thirds of the spawning grounds, where the Columbia salmon races reproduced themselves 50 years ago, are now entirely eliminated by dams and other barriers over which the fish cannot proceed, and that still other structures of this type, plus unscreened irrigation ditches, are taking a large toll of the young salmon born on the remaining spawning grounds, it is a remarkable fact and a tribute to the artificial propagation program of Oregon and Washington that the salmon runs have been maintained at their existing status. However, it is also evident that in the face of these present obstructions, and in view of further approved projects of this nature, that this propagation program must be greatly strengthened unless the industry is to be eliminated as an important factor in the state's economy. The state cannot spend its tax dollars and obtain a greater proportion of return than through the establishment of an adequate program to preserve this resource.

COVER PICTURE

The Royal King Chinook of the Columbia River, Nature's tops in salmon, is far from being a minnow. Pictured on the cover page of this issue is an 83½ pound specimen, guarded by Tony Canessa, CRPA Cold Storage Superintendent.

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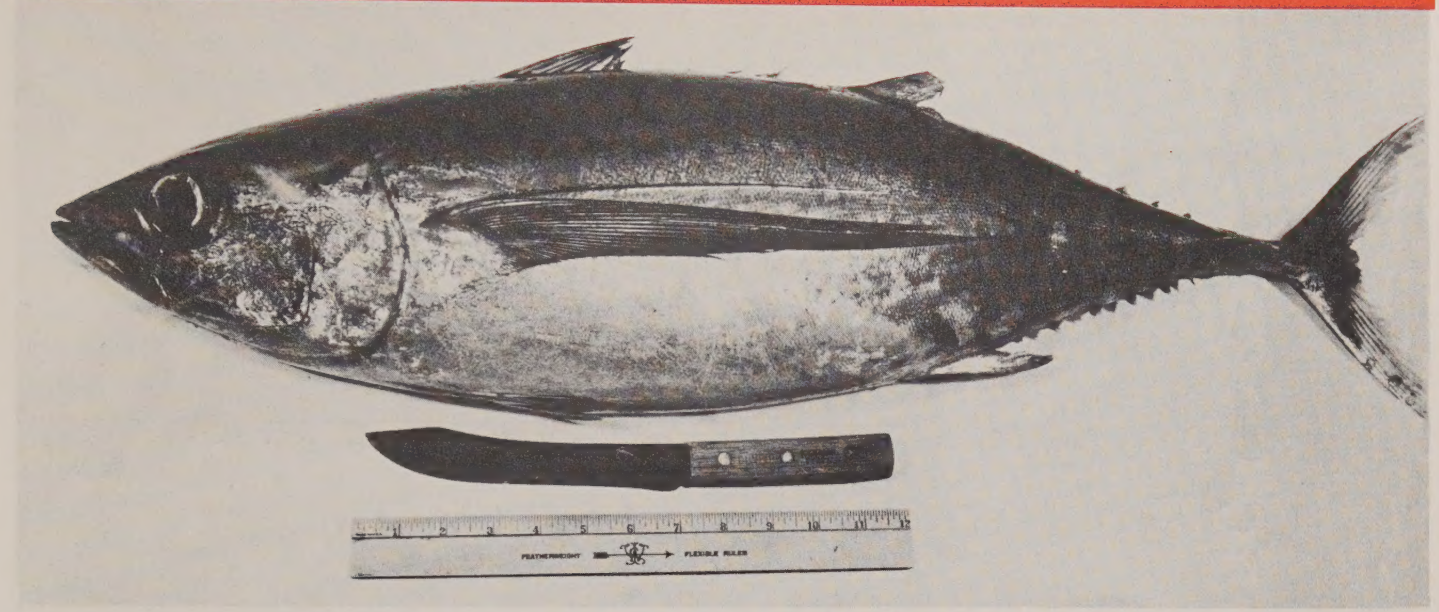
TUNA MATCHES WHALE



26 Inch Tuna Swallows Big Butcher Blade

The Whale swallowed Jonah but became uncomfortable to the extent that he had to get rid of the unwelcome visitor. Not so the Albacore tuna above who swallowed an 11½ inch butcher knife and proceeded serenely along while the blade rusted in his vitals, until he fell victim to the hook of the CRPA fisherman.

Jonah was bigger than the knife but the tuna was a lot smaller than the whale and his gustatory feat has the bigger sea denizen backed off the map. The tuna itself was only 26¾ inches long and weighed about 14 pounds.

Fishermen say the knife is of a type used on fish boats and that the blade was probably bright and shining when it fell overboard to attract the attention of the Albacore, who probably mistook the silvery gleam of the twisting blade for a nice big pilchard, and discovered the mistake too late.

At any rate when the fish was opened by Myrtle Ford and Anita Nilsson at CRPA's tuna cannery the knife and tuna were both in good shape, other than a thick rust coating on the blade.

THEY FOUND IT

MYRTLE FORD and ANITA NILSSON Looking at their discovery

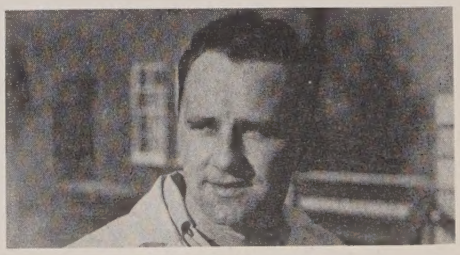
Tuna Tales

Lt. William E. Lynch and his bride (the former Miss Elizabeth Nilsson of the CRPA) have been to the East Coast to visit Mr. Lynch's mother. Mr. Lynch is a survivor of the sinking of the "Gambier Bay" on October 25. He told of having to spend two days and two nights on a raft without food or water. The flattop was struck by Jap shells . . . an order to abandon ship . . . a few hastily hurled rafts into the ocean and then a desperate attempt to get aboard one of them in the heavy seas. He swam to one but many were not able to swim and were reported lost. Mrs. Lynch is the daughter of Mrs. Julia Nilsson, forewoman of the Tuna Department.

* * * * *

There seems to be some question as to who was responsible for the first suggestion to be used out of the suggestion box. Her name is Edna Howell, an old timer at the CRPA. (This was in regard to the changing of the coffee urns in the coffee room.)

Margaret Miller of the Butcher Gang became the bride of Phillip Buller on November 10. The ceremony was held at Christs Chapel of the Methodist Church. Margaret is the daughter of Peggy Miller, who has been with the CRPA for several seasons. The couple will make their home in Astoria.



OLAF WAISANEN
Assistant Superintendent—Tuna

CRPA PREPARES FOR 1945

Plant Improvement Program Progresses Painting Planned

CRPA is using the winter lull in processing activities to prepare for a bigger and better 1945. In addition to the big construction job underway at the shipyard division, General Superintendent Jay Hendrickson, has a number of projects planned or already underway.

While awaiting the arrival of additional refrigerating machinery designed to increase the capacity of the big cold storage plant, crews have been busy there reconditioning the dock and pouring a full concrete floor over all the fish handling areas. This work will be completed soon and the plant will be ready for early spring activities. Lull of other activity at the plant following the completion of silverside slicing the last week in December has permitted this reconstruction work to be carried on at a rapid pace.

Painting Planned

Another project that is waiting a break in the weather is the painting of the Elmore salmon and tuna cannery plants and the cold storage. These plants will be painted white and a huge Neon sign will be installed on the cannery showing the company name and the principal products processed there. This program will initiate a plan of standardized painting of all CRPA plants and will be applied as new painting jobs are required.

New Boiler

Another project soon to be underway is the installation of a new 200 h.p. boiler at the cannery to replace the old boiler which has been worn out in long service there. Work on increasing ice storage and sharp freezing facilities at Newport is waiting clearance of priorities.

Work on rebuilding the CRPA main office has proceeded slowly but steadily. The new IBM room is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy as soon as heating facilities have been installed and placed in working order. The large accounting room is next on schedule and when that is ready for use, work on remodeling the west front of the office will be begun.

TUNA OIL

Tuna body oil is extracted for use in paints and low vitamin animal foods. It's not for your table, but CRPA keeps everything clean—your chickens like it that way.

Altoona Items

CRPA has purchased the former L. S. Munro property.

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Word has been received of the birth of a baby girl to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Heiner. This is their second child, the first being a boy.

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A new family has moved to Altoona. Mr. and Mrs. Walter L. Smith and baby daughter, formerly of Seattle. Mrs. Smith was the former Hazel Hendricksen. She has taken over the Altoona Mercantile and is also postmistress, replacing Edgard Burkebile who is leaving the community.

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A report has been received that Joel Johnson, former CRPA employee here, has been killed in action.

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The public dock between the store and cannery is being replaced.

* * * * *

Lt. Vincent Tapping and Sergeant Howard Magnuson are prisoners of war in Germany.

J. B. HENDRICKSON

CRPA'S GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

When they want it done they tell him about it. There's no vacancy under that marcel. Uh-huh, he's married.

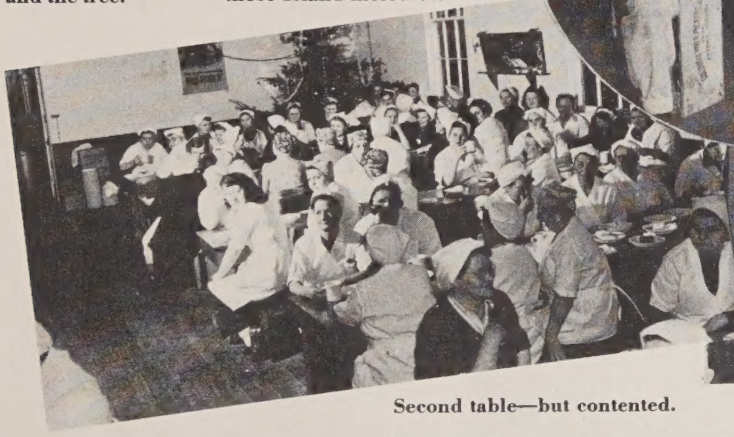
XMAS COMES TO CRPA

Alice, Julia, and the tree.

Some sad—some glad—but singing.

The orchestra—those Island melodies. →

Hungry—yes. But a few with eyes on the birdie.



Second table—but contented.

They look sober—but not too.

Everything's clean in the laundry—the plates, too.

What's going on here?

**ELMORE CANNERY MET SANTA CLAUS MORE THAN HALF WAY . . .
HERE ARE A FEW OF THE CELEBRANTS AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Tuna Canning From Storage Stock Continues

Tuna canning on storage stocks has been proceeding steadily during the month but was halted on December 23, to give a well earned ten day rest to the cannery crew. As the pack is being taken from cold storage stock there will be nc loss in production or to food stocks from the layoff. Many of the women employed in this work are housewives and the interval will permit them to prepare for properly celebrating the holiday season with their families.

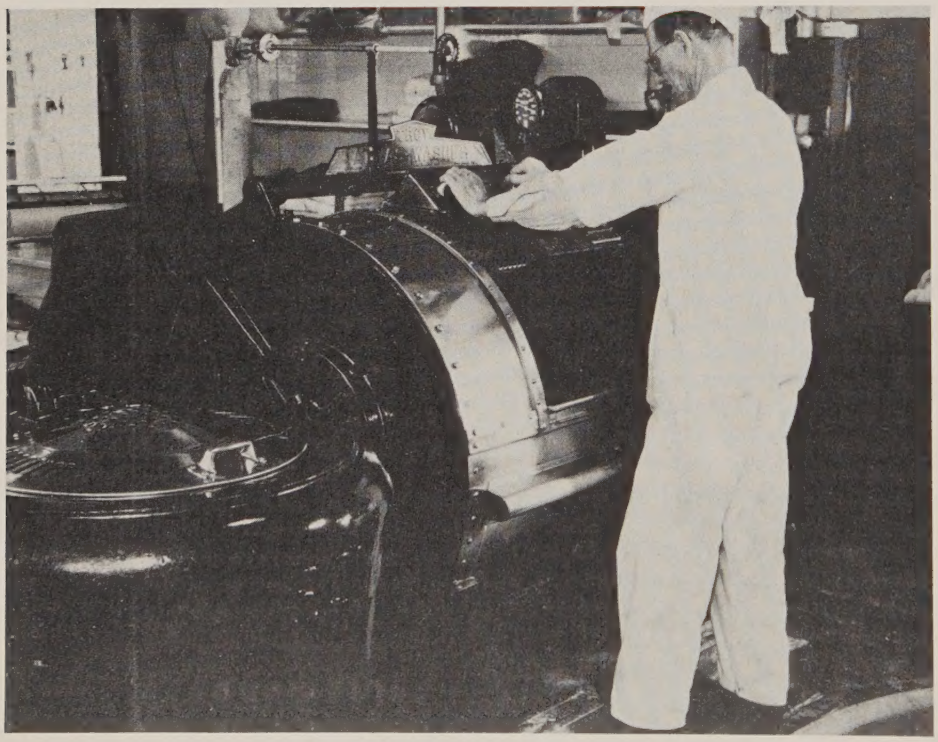
The latest estimate as to the completion of the year tuna operation places the date late in February. It is expected that shortly later crab production will get underway on scale that will permit freezing to start. At the present time there is a trickle of production but not enough bulk to warrant processing operations.

Both weather and price difficulties have slowed down drag fish production but hope is held that an adjustment on frozen fish prices can be secured to meet the winter raise in raw fish prices.

TROLL BOATS UNDERWAY

CRPA ship isn't the company's only boat building plant. Pictured above are the frames of two troll boats in process of construction at the George & Barker plant of the company. The keel for another boat has been lain but is not visible in the picture. Five of these small trollers, which are 31 feet 9 inches in length, 9 feet in beam and 50 inches deep, will be built for CRPA, and in addition CRPA fishermen are going to build two more for themselves. They will all be powered with 110 h.p. Chryslers and will be modern in every respect. These boats are not large as seagoing boats go but boats of this type have often brought in as high as 20 to 25 tons at a trip. Pictured above from left to right: Pete Welch, Station Manager; Ford Miller, Konrad Helmerson, Oscar Hendrickson, and Ernest Gustin. Two of the five CRPA boats will be built at Occident station under direction of Al Paldanius.

CRPA LAUNDRY



CRPA's foresight paid dividends the past two years. While other operators have been having trouble and lots of it with their laundry problem CRPA with its own modern plant has been keeping the thousands of smocks and coveralls used by its employees clean and spotless.

At the peak of the season the laundry was washing about 15,000 pairs of gloves and around 3,000 smocks, coveralls, and caps each month.

Laundryman George Crandall is pictured at the washing machine above. The drier is shown to the left.

Salmon Sallies

In order to improve working conditions for their employees, Elmore has installed a heating system in the Tuna Works rooms and warehouse.

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The Elmore Salmon Receiving Station is undergoing a complete overhauling; including new decking, improved receiving and weighing facilities, etc.

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Jack L'Amie, Superintendent of the Salmon Division of Elmore Cannery continues to improve and indications are that he will be back on the job by January 1st.

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As usual, the employees of Elmore Cannery went over the top in a big way on the Sixth War Loan Drive.

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The Elmore Bowling Team, consisting of S. B. Tulayan, Fidel Autencio, Alfredo Mecanika, S. Hunk are now leading the league.

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Mr. Carl Utzinger, Label Machine Operator, and Miss Betty Smith, Warehouse employee, were married in Yakima, Wash., November 18th.

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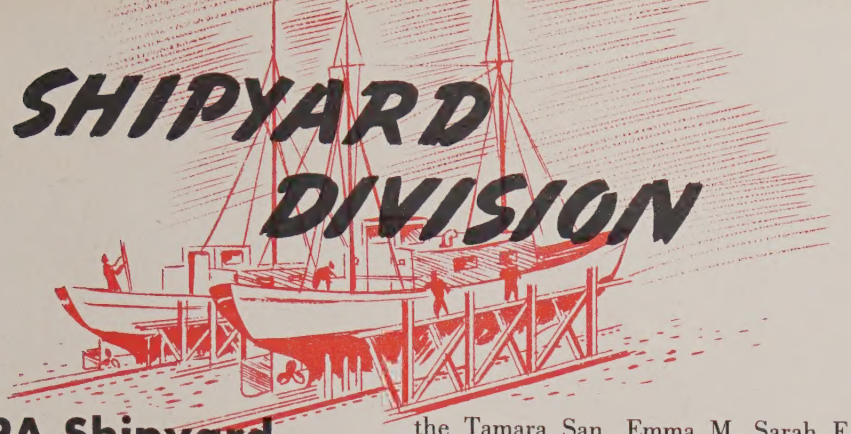
Mr. Robert Tindall, Seaman First Class, Escort Carrier and Miss La Verna Nelson, Elmore Warehouse employee, were married at Stevenson, Wash., November 21st.



CRPA Shipyard New Building Moving Ahead

CRPA Shipyard Division had a busy month, with principal efforts devoted toward rushing to completion the new structures designed to make the establishment one of the most compact and efficiently arranged plants of its size in the Northwest.

Framing for the covered ways, the big new machine shop, and the carpenter shop was nearing completion as the year ended, and the entire program was scheduled for completion in January, if the expected shipments of corrugated iron covering are received.

New Boats Started

Framing of two new drag boats was started during December and the work is expected to advance rapidly in January. These new craft, which will be modern in every respect, will be 76 feet long, 22 foot beam, and 10½ in depth. One is being constructed for Ralph Horne, Astoria, and the other for CRPA itself, for use in Alaska operations in the summer and tuna fishing and dragging off the Columbia River in the fall.

Additional construction included the rebuilding of the Norgaard boom boat, Venture, which was almost completely destroyed by a gas explosion; the building of a piledriver for Astoria Piledrivers, and completion of the new CRPA diesel scow, the Golden Age.

This latter craft was expected to go into service the first week in January and her first job was scheduled to be the bringing of lumber from upriver mills for CRPA construction projects. The 72 foot craft designed primarily as an ice and fish carrier is an innovation on the Columbia River where the launch type tender has been used for years. She is 72 by 24 feet and is equipped with a mast, boom, a hoist and hatch covers.

Much Repair Work

Boats hauled for repairs during the past month included the CRPA No. 2, the Tamara San, Emma M, Sarah E., and the CRPA can barge. Repair work was also put underway on the ferry launch operated from Tenasillihee Island by Rancher Bob Jones. Three additional troll boats were hauled up for winter storage.

Cannery Tender CRPA No. 2 up for repairs at company shipyard.

SHIP'S LOG

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mathre are the proud parents of a baby son, Richard, born on December 2. The young man weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. His father is the CRPA Ship Foreman.

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Crane Operator Chet Bell and Mrs. Bell are having a pleasant visit with their son, Pvt. Robert C. Bell, who is home on a 30 day furlough from the Central Pacific area, where he served in the Entertainment Department, Office of Special Service. He arrived exactly three years from the day he left. His marriage to Miss Mavis Rice of Portland will occur before he leaves here.

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John Lindgren, Shipwright, and John Weber, Degree-setter, have enjoyed vacations this month.

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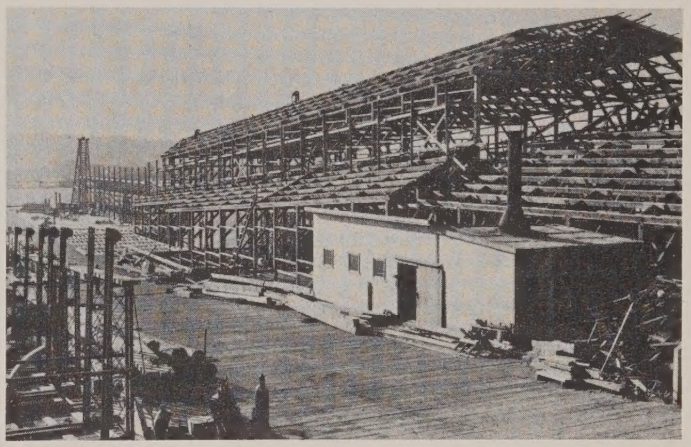
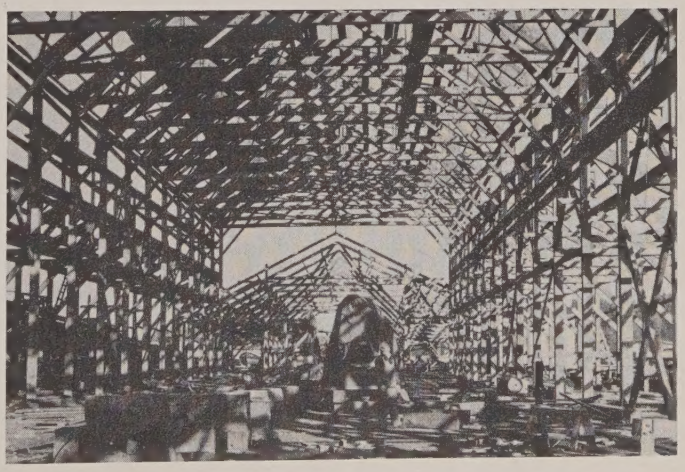
Mack Gottschalk and Elmer L. Smith are new employees at the Shipyard.



New covered way at CRPA Shipyard nearing completion. Portion of marine railway visible at left.



Interior view of Shipyard Covered Way construction looking up from river. Carpenter shop framework in background.

Market Letter

FILLET PACKING

Fillets for food for the Armed Forces being packed at CRPA's Cold Storage with Captain R. B. Sivyer, Quartermaster Inspector, U.S.A. watching the process. The fillets arriving on a moving belt are divided as to species, placed in the pans and frozen into solid 10 pound blocks. These blocks are later wrapped in parchment and shipped to our fighting men at home and abroad. Another Army inspector, Corporal Ramundi (top center) is inspecting the pans.

For years prior to the war our company has specialized in the packing of fancy quality seafoods. Having had years of experience in marketing quality foods, we are particularly conscious of the effect which the increased purchasing power in the hands of the consumer has had in the quality food market. Without question the average consumer will buy better quality foods as their purchasing power is increased. In considering the post-war food market, we think it well for our brokers and distributors to keep in mind the trend on the part of the consumer during the war years to buy better foods. This has taken place in all types of foods, and we believe it is going to have a decided bearing on the post-war food market in this country. It is axiomatic that once the consumer's taste is educated to appreciate better quality foods, they will want to continue to use quality foods.

During the war years we have followed the policy of making a fair allocation of our pack equally to all of our domestic markets with the result that in many instances fancy Columbia River Salmon and fancy white meat Albacore Tuna were introduced into markets which had formerly never enjoyed these fancy seafoods. These markets will continue to repeat on these fancy items after the war with the result that we firmly believe we will enter the normal post-war domestic market with a broadened and sustained demand which will be far in excess of the demand which existed prior to the war.

Tony Canessa, Superintendent of CRPA's Cold Storage, is convalescing from the results of an operation for hernia at a local hospital during the past month, and is expected to be back on the job soon.

Herman Geissel, Naknek Superintendent, who underwent a similar operation early in December, got back on his feet in time to celebrate the New Year.

Henry Ashenfelter, formerly with Harold Jones at Garibaldi, has moved to Depoe Bay to join CRPA.

THE "BUMBLE BEE" GOES TO WAR

The past season, as in previous years since Pearl Harbor, every preference has been given the Armed Forces for first call on our available supplies. Frozen Fillets have proven an ideal food for the domestic as well as export military consumption. Quartermaster purchases have averaged a large percentage of our production of various species of frozen fish in the dressed, sliced and fillet forms. Army inspectors such as those shown on this page, inspect the quality and packing according to Government specifications. These facts explain the shortage we have experienced in trying to satisfy the heavy demand from our established domestic outlets.

The enlargement of our modern facilities has made it possible for the company to receive and process unlimited quantities of ocean and river caught varieties of fish. Upon completion of the war, we will again return to the normal merchandising of our products with a constant study being made to produce the most desirable and acceptable types of packages for the consuming trade.

During the past season, it has been our purpose and desire to be consistent in the distribution of our products to the many markets which we serve. It is our hope that those in the field will realize the difficulties we have experienced with regard to shortage of supply, and trust the coming year will make it possible for us to fill orders more in line with the actual demand that exists.